

ROSS OPPOSES ADMINISTRATION OVERTIME REGULATIONS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 12, 2004, I missed a vote to table the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2660, the Labor-HHS Appropriations Act of fiscal year 2004, offered by Representative GEORGE MILLER. Had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to table.

Although the FY04 omnibus appropriations bill included the FY04 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, technically, it is still in conference and motions to instruct are in order. By tabling this motion to instruct, it will injure the working men and women of Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District, and the nation who often depend on overtime pay to make ends meet. I support the Senate language to prohibit the use of funds to issue or enforce a regulation that would take overtime pay away from any employee who, under current regulations, is entitled to overtime pay.

On April 23, the Labor Department published a final overtime eligibility rule in the Federal Register that will take effect later this year. The final rule differs from the proposed rule in that it substantially expands the Fair Labor Standards Act's (FLSA) exemptions and threatens the overtime rights of millions of workers. For instance, the final rule greatly expands the exemption for administrative employees, thus creating loopholes for employers to potentially exploit hard working Americans. Additionally, the final rule expands the learned professional exemption to workers without college degrees and jeopardizes the overtime protection of blue collar workers considered "management."

Working families in the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas depend on overtime pay to feed their families, make their mortgages, and contribute to this great society. Any action by our government to reduce this simple process in unconscionable.

It is for these reasons that had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to table Representative GEORGE MILLER's Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2660.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, the development of modern transportation infrastructure has changed the way Americans live, travel, and continues to be one of the driving factors in maintaining a strong economy. Since this is National Transportation Week I would like to recognize the significant contributions transportation infrastructure has made in districts like mine.

The 2004 American Almanac of Politics recently rated Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District as the fourth most rural in Congress. As a farm boy who grew up and lives in one of the most rural counties in the district

I understand the importance of roads, and infrastructure. Many of the communities, towns and cities in my district, like many others, depend on these investments for their livelihood.

A Senate and House Conference Committee have been working with the Administration to find common ground in the highway reauthorization bill, commonly referred to as TEA-LU. The funding for this legislation has been set for a six year span. It is my strong belief, the investment in building and adding upon existing infrastructure will not only impact our grandchildren, but their children as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to praise the work we have accomplished in strengthening our nation's roads, highways, national security, and economy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in attendance for votes on May 13, 2004 due to a family commitment.

1. Had I been present, on rollcall No. 169, a substitute to H.R. 4275, I would have voted "aye."

2. On rollcall No. 170, H.R. 4275, to extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket, I would have voted "nay."

3. On rollcall No. 171, a motion that the House instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 95, I would have voted "aye."

4. On rollcall No. 172, a substitute to H.R. 4281, the Small Business Health Fairness Act, I would have voted "aye."

5. On rollcall No. 173, a motion to recommit H.R. 4281, I would have voted "aye."

6. On rollcall No. 174, the Small Business Health Fairness Act, I would have voted "nay."

7. On rollcall No. 175, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, I would have voted "aye."

8. Finally, on rollcall No. 176, Expressing the sense of the Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. TOPEKA BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, it was 228 years ago that the Second Continental Congress affirmed that all men are created equal, as they declared their independence from England. Despite the grand idea of creating a better government that cherished equality and unalienable rights, the United States of America endorsed overt racial discrimination and exploitation for over 178 years.

It was only 50 years ago, in the Supreme Court ruling on Brown vs. Topeka Board of

Education that our government took a big step towards correcting these wrongs and recognizing the full spirit of equality. This ruling reversed the Plessy vs. Ferguson case and established that, "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." The Supreme Court's acknowledgment in Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education was a pivotal point in the rising civil rights movement that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Today, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education. We also honor all the people, young and old, who bravely challenged the status quo and risked their own personal safety to fight for equality. It was their courage that spurred our country to become a better place and we will continue to recognize their important role in our history.

As we commemorate the achievement of the Brown decision, we must also recognize that this fight is not over. Across the country children of all races are being deprived of their fundamental right to an education. In California we see painful overcrowding in schools, creating conditions that are not conducive to learning. Without the critical skills provided by a good education, our children's futures are restricted. In the last several years we have seen a symbol of commitment to improving education in the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Law. This legislation sets high standards for the kind of achievement we would like to see from all of our children. However, this law fails to provide the resources and tools for states and localities to achieve these goals. Underperforming schools are punished instead of helped, and our children are once again denied their right to a good education.

The significance of Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education is too important for us to let it slip away. We must continue to dedicate ourselves to achieving equal rights and equal opportunity for all Americans.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT HESLEY BOX, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Hesley Box, Jr., of Chidester, Arkansas, who died on May 6, 2004, fighting for his country. Hesley, just 24 years old, was part of the Arkansas National Guard, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Brigade Combat Team. I wish to recognize his life and achievements.

I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss Hesley Box, Jr. from Arkansas's 39th Brigade, who died while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Hesley lost his life while making the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country, and I will be forever grateful to him for his courageous spirit.

Hesley gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero. My deepest condolences go out to his parents, Barbie and Hesley, his brother, Tarcus, his wife, Alexis, their daughter, TaDarius, and their son, Zacheas. I know Hesley was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow